

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**In re Application of:**

Dennis MENDIOLA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2152

**Application No.: 09/846,376**

Examiner: Unassigned

**Filed: May 2, 2001**

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR TRACKING THE ONLINE STATUS OF ACTIVE USERS OF AND INTERNET-BASED INSTANT MESSAGING SYSTEM

**RECEIVED**  
AUG 03 2001  
Technology Center 2100

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**Sir:**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application. Copies of the listed documents, including any copending patent applications, are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

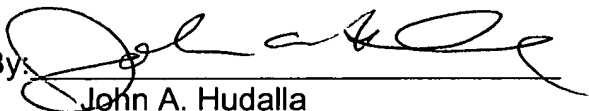
If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: August 1, 2001

By:

  
John A. Hudalla  
Reg. No. P-48,445

# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

OMB No. 0651-0011

Atty. Docket No. <b>8098-0010-00</b>	Serial No. <b>09/846,376</b>
Applicant <b>Dennis MENDIOLA et al.</b>	
Filing Date <b>May 2, 2001</b>	Group: <b>2152</b>

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate	
	20010003202 A1		Mache et al.			11/30/00	
	20010003203 A1		Mache			11/30/00	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No		

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	

Examiner	Date Considered
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>	
<p>Form PTO 1449 <span style="float: right;">Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce</span></p>	